

# Professional Hearing Aid Associates



Hear The  
Sounds of Life

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9-21-2000

Honorable Donna Shalala  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave. S.W.  
Room 615F  
Washington, D. C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

As a small business owner and hearing health care provider, I write with respect to hearing aids. The Hilderman Families have been in the hearing aid business since 1946. My mother and father started it and now there are 3 Hilderman Families making a living from it.

I am very concerned with reports that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has reportedly sent you a proposal for revising the current regulations governing the dispensing of hearing aids in this country that would dramatically increase the cost of hearing health care services and restrict access to hearing health care providers. In Kansas we have few big cities and a lot of open area's to provide services too, this bill would hinder more seniors to access of hearing health services. As the AARP has confirmed, hearing aids are highly effective but dramatically underutilized medical devices.

Please stop and carefully consider the impact that the proposed rule will have on the nation's hearing impaired and on small family business. In particular, please ensure that any proposed rule meets the obligations of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

Hearing impairment is a major health care concern. Please don't let the FDA put forth their proposed rule that would impede access to needed health care services for millions of Americans. As my father would say "If it ai'nt broke don't fix it"

Thanks for your time,

Harry H. Hilderman and Family  
Brad A. Hilderman and Family  
Rusty D. Hilderman and Family

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# Professional

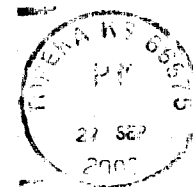
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